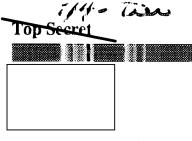
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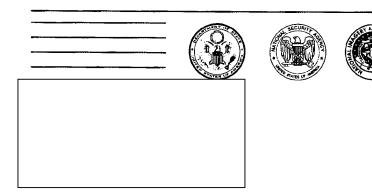




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#### **Current Notes**

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Peru:

### **Anticorruption Prosecutor Fired**

The Attorney General's office last week fired special antidrug prosecutor Alberto Rengifo after he reaffirmed the culpability of President Fujimori's former pilot and 22 other Air Force personnel in an attempt to ship cocaine to Russia last year, according to press reports. Fujimori in late July publicly exonerated all Air Force personnel, claiming they were participating in a secret mission related to Peru's purchase of MiG-29 fighters.

- In his July statement, the President offered no explanation for how the cocaine was placed aboard the Air Force 707 or why he had earlier branded the same flight officers "criminals."
- Press reports say a judge last Thursday dismissed all charges against the pilot.

The administration's move appears intended to placate military concerns about the trial of its officers in civilian courts under Peru's 1995 counternarcotics law. With his domestic political fortunes in decline in recent months, Fujimori has become more dependent on the armed forces' support.

 Corrupt military officers are likely to interpret the action
as a tacit sanction for their illegal activities, and fewer
prosecutors and judges may be willing to risk their careers
by acting independently of the administration.

